

EPA goes to court over Holden work

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A suit filed Monday in U.S. District Court was the EPA's latest action related to the effort to remove millions of pounds of material contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs.

Manufacture of PCBs, chemicals once widely used as coolants and lubricants in electrical transformers, was banned in the United States by the EPA in 1977. Since then, the electrical equipment containing the hazardous chemical has been phased out gradually under EPA supervision.

88848

ST. JOSEPH, MO., GAZETTE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1986

Site: Martha C. Rose
ID# MOD980633069
Break: 13.3
Other:
10/22/86

EPA wants Rose Chemicals to pay for Holden cleanup

Associated Press

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Rose said in March that it was financially unable to handle the material, and the EPA has estimated the cost of cleaning up

the site could run to as much as \$20 million.

The suit filed Monday accuses Rose, American Steel Works Inc., W.C. Carolan Co. Inc. and Walter Carolan of violating numerous federal regulations relating to handling of PCBs.

Carolan is majority owner and president of Rose Chemicals, and also owns American Steel Works, a steel fabricator that operated in the same building at Holden.

"The filing of this case represents our efforts to require that Martha C. Rose Chemicals comply with the law by properly storing and disposing of PCBs at Holden," said Morris Kay, EPA's regional administrator.

"It is our belief that as the owners and operators of the facility they and other defendants have the responsibility for the cleanup," Kay said.

More than 600 companies sent PCBs to Rose Chemicals for disposal under EPA supervision, and if Rose is unable to pay for cleanup, federal regulations specify that they bear the costs.



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SUPERFUND RECORDS

The Kansas City Star, Wednesday, October 22, 1986

PCBs may have been put on roads, officials say

By Barbara Musfeldt

The Star's energy/environment writer

Toxic PCBs may have been deliberately dumped along two isolated gravel roads in southern Pettis County, according to federal and county investigators.

Pettis County Sheriff Gary Starke said his office received a complaint several months ago from a citizen that someone was dumping waste oil along the road.

Soil samples taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agen-

cy indicate some areas of the roads were contaminated with low to moderate levels of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), said Dale Armstrong, a spokesman for the agency.

County officials have "circumstantial evidence" that the waste oil was deliberately dumped along the roads, Sheriff Starke said.

"It looks as if the waste oil was in some kind of tanker truck and someone just drove down the gravel roads and opened the valve," he said.

Sheriff Starke said EPA inves-

tigators are helping county officials trace the source of the waste oil along the roads. He expects evidence on the case to be turned over to the county prosecutor within a week.

Contaminated areas along the roads have been cordoned off and residents have been told to keep away from them, Sheriff Starke said.

About three miles of roads were affected, mainly in southern Pettis County but reaching a short distance into neighboring Benton County, he said.

The sheriff said the Centers for

Disease Control in Atlanta believes the contaminated areas pose no immediate health threat as long as direct contact with the soil is avoided.

Sheriff Starke said his office reported the spills to the EPA shortly after receiving the initial complaint.

EPA investigators took soil samples July 30, Mr. Armstrong said. Results delivered to the county this week indicated levels of PCB contamination ranging from 69 to 240 parts per million, Mr. Armstrong said.